This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-15 (canceled).

16 (currently amended). ~~The method of claim 15~~ A method of deploying a new software feature to a plurality of users, said method comprising the acts of:
      setting a throttle value to a first proportion;
      selecting a first group of said plurality of users, the number of users in said first group being in said first proportion to the number of said plurality of users;
      providing said feature to said first group;
      increasing said throttle value from said first proportion to a second proportion;
      selecting a second group of said plurality of users, the number of users in said second group being in said second proportion to the number of said plurality of users, wherein all users in said first group are included in said second group;
      providing said feature to said second group;~~, further comprising the act of:~~
      reducing said throttle value from said second proportion to a third proportion;
      selecting a third group of said plurality of users, the number of users in said third group as compared with the number of said plurality of users being ~~about~~ equal to said third proportion, wherein all users in said third group are included in said second group; and
      removing said feature from those users who are in said second group but not in said third group.

17 (currently amended). ~~The method of claim 15~~ A method of deploying a new software feature to a plurality of users, said method comprising the acts of:
      setting a throttle value to a first proportion;
      selecting a first group of said plurality of users, the number of users in said first group being in said first proportion to the number of said plurality of users;
      providing said feature to said first group;
      increasing said throttle value from said first proportion to a second proportion;
      selecting a second group of said plurality of users, the number of users in said

second group being in said second proportion to the number of said plurality of users,

wherein all users in said first group are included in said second group; and

        providing said feature to said second group,

wherein each of said user is associated with an identifier, wherein said throttle value is a

number within the range m to n, and wherein said first and second groups of users are

selected according to a process comprising the steps of:

        converting the identifiers associated with the users to a value in the range from

m to n;

        comparing the converted identifiers with the throttle value; and

        selecting a user based on the comparison of the converted identifiers with the

throttle value.

18 (original). The method of claim 17, wherein the act of comparing the converted

identifier with the throttle value comprises determining whether the converted identifier is

less than the throttle value.

19 (original). The method of claim 17, wherein the act of converting the identifiers

comprises hashing the identifiers using a hash function.

20 (currently amended). The method of claim 19, wherein said range is 0 to [[n-1]] $\underline{k\text{-}}$

$\underline{1}$, and wherein said hash function comprises a modulo [[n]] $\underline{k}$ hash function.

21-22 (canceled).

23 (currently amended). ~~The method of claim 15~~ A method of deploying a new

software feature to a plurality of users, said method comprising the acts of:

        setting a throttle value to a first proportion;

        selecting a first group of said plurality of users, the number of users in said

first group being in said first proportion to the number of said plurality of users;

        providing said feature to said first group;

        increasing said throttle value from said first proportion to a second proportion;

selecting a second group of said plurality of users, the number of users in said second group being in said second proportion to the number of said plurality of users, wherein all users in said first group are included in said second group; and

providing said feature to said second group,

wherein each of said plurality of users is a user of a web site that stores customization information for each of the users and provides a customized version of the web site to each user based on the stored customization information, wherein said feature comprises migrating the customization data for a user from a client-side file to a common data store located remotely from each user, wherein the act of providing said feature to said first group comprises:

copying, from the client-side file to the common data store, the customization data for each user in the first group;

and wherein the act of providing said feature to said second group comprises:

copying, from the client-side file to the customization store, the customization data for each user in the second group for whom the data has not already been copied.

24 (original). The method of claim 23, further comprising the acts of:

setting an indication for each user whose data has been migrated to the common data store; and

maintaining, in a client-side file, a mirror copy of the customization data for each user for whom the indication has been set.

25-32 (canceled).